

# COUNCIL SPLIT ON ALONDRA

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### Decisive Ballot Missing

The absence of one Torrance city councilman from last Tuesday night's meeting hampered efforts to get a clear understanding of just how the city's legislative body felt on the matter of annexing Alondra Park to Torrance.

City Councilman Nick Drake asked his colleagues to go on record as favoring the proposed annexation, a proceeding with necessary legislation.

Following lengthy debate during which Mayor Mervin Schwab declared that he was not sufficiently well acquainted with the vital issue to take a stand at this point, the vote was called.

Councilmen Victor Benstead and Dale voted in favor of the measure. Councilman Willys Blount and Mayor Schwab cast a "no" vote. Councilman Harvey Spelman, who would have cast the decisive vote, was absent from the meeting.

The question has been held over for further discussion and another vote at the next regular meeting of the council.

A letter from Torrance Unified Taxpayers, urging the annexation, was not read at the meeting. T.U.T. officials disclose that the letter was sent by registered mail to the city council in time for inclusion in the agenda of the meeting, but for reasons unknown was not read.

Why the letter was not read was not revealed by city officials.

We reprint the letter below: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
City of Torrance, California  
Gentlemen:

A study of the minutes of the City Council of Torrance about 20 years ago reveals that at that time an aggressive Chamber of Commerce secretary spearheaded a movement to annex to Torrance certain territory which now contains nearly one-fourth of the population of Torrance, including such sections as Hollywood, Riviera, Waverly, Seaside Ranchos, the Airport and Torrance Beach.

This alert civic leader who raised his eyes to see distant borders was much criticized because of his progressive ideas. He left the city for greater fields, but the

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### First-Day Ad Results Net Profit

"Sold my bed the first day I advertised it. Those Torrance Press classified ads sure are powerful," states John Glass, 1015 Acacia st. This is the small, inexpensive press classified that got such fast results for this local advertiser:

HOLLYWOOD Bed Set. Can be seen at 1015 Acacia, Thurs. or Fri. Phone: 2089-J.

You can get the same first-day results, too, because Press classifieds reach 100,000 potential customers in the greater Torrance shopping area.

To place your Press classified, just call Torrance 1185.

# CONSTRUCTION HERE REACHES \$20 MILLION IN RECORD YEAR

## Greater Total in '53 Seen

The dizzy spiral that has marked construction in this city throughout the past eleven months continued its climb during the final month of the year, with \$3,019,776 in building permits being racked up by Friday.

With only three days left in 1952, the year's total now stands at \$20,385,405. This figure is \$4,367,632 above 1951's total of only \$16,017,773.

During only three months of this year did building permit totals fall below the million mark.

Month by month, the totals were as follows:

- January, \$584,028;
- February, \$3,191,922;
- March, \$747,841;
- April, \$1,964,246;
- May, \$2,484,362;
- June, \$1,354,844;
- July, \$1,788,991;
- August, \$815,962;
- September, \$2,262,242;
- October, \$1,142,555;
- November, \$1,028,616;
- December to last Friday, \$3,019,776.

Construction totals next year will get an early shot in the arm when permits for a giant 1309-home tract slated for southwest Torrance are taken out. This tract is valued at \$16,000,000.

A second major project scheduled for next year is the proposed multi-million dollar expansion of the Harvey Machine Co. facility.

City building officials predict that this year's all-time record high will be shattered within three months of the beginning of the year.

## Vet Returns

Cpl. Dennis D. Holmes, son of Mrs. Agnes I. Vetter, of Harbor City, is returning to the United States from Japan for release from active duty, the Army announced today.

## TORRANCE COMMENDED FOR HIGH VOTE RECORD

A citation of commendation was issued last week by Gov. Earl Warren to the City of Torrance for being among the top 50 cities in percentage of registered voters going to the polls on Nov. 4, according to city officials.

A total of 14,980 of 16,610 registered voters in Torrance cast their ballots, for a percentage of 90.186.

An adjacent city, Palos Verdes, led the whole state in percentage of voters casting their ballots. Of 1970 registered voters, 1881 persons, or 95.48 per cent of the eligible voters, marked ballots in that city.

## Latest Type Garbage-Refuse Disposal Unit Shown Here

In the event that proposed legislation to outlaw backyard incinerators in Los Angeles county becomes a law, thousands of Torrance homeowners will find themselves faced with the problem of what to do with combustible rubbish.

That problem has been solved in advance.

The answer is the new Calcinator, automatic disposal unit, which completely disposes of all garbage and burnable waste materials.

### Dehydration

The Calcinator effectively destroys all food matter and other materials, except metal and glass, by the process of first dehydrating, then burning them completely.

A tiny gas flame is the heart of this new, modern household convenience. The Calcinator cabinet is built in such a fashion that currents of air heated by the small gas flame draw all moisture from waste and garbage.

The refuse then burns completely, leaving only a small amount of fine nitric ash. The ash, too, serves a purpose. It is a very good fertilizer for lawns and flower beds.

### Dealer Here

Jim Lawson, co-owner of Liberty Home Economy Co., 1623 Cravens ave., exclusive South Bay franchise dealer of the Calcinator, reports that the disposal unit is now widely used in hospitals and restaurants because of its economy of operation, complete efficiency, and absolute safety.

The cabinet of the unit is of gleaming white enamel. Accurately set at the time of installation.

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ATTORNEY JAMES M. HALL  
... heads bar association

## City Attorney Set to Ask For Prosecutor

Shortly after the first of the year, City Attorney James M. Hall will ask the city council to appoint a city prosecutor to handle criminal cases for the city.

Hall revealed this week that the press of other business will make it impossible for him to handle such work after the South Municipal Court begins to function on Jan. 5.

He said he will contact other Torrance attorneys to see who would have the necessary time to devote to the job and then recommend several to the council.

The council's choice probably won't be made before the next regular meeting on January 13, but Hall stated that he could handle all cases that may arise before then.

Hall has handled all legal work for the city including criminal prosecution in the city court here. However, the city court will be

## George Peckham, Pioneer Businessman Succumbs

George Jay Peckham Sr., pioneer business man of this city, died of a heart attack on Sunday, Dec. 21, while vacationing at Palm Springs.

An early settler here, Peckham opened Torrance's first automobile agency, Schultz and Peckham Ford, in 1921.

Afflicted with the heart condition two and a half years ago, Peckham, who was 58 years old, became inactive in his business. He served as Rotary president and on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce during his lifetime. A native of South Dakota, he had lived here 31 years.

Funeral rites were conducted at Stone and Myers Mortuary last Wednesday, Rev. C. J. Eng-

stalled at a dinner meeting to be held on January 23 at the Palos Verdes Country Club.

Other officers named in the recent election are James L. Potts, first vice-president; Robert Gooch, second vice-president; James Townsell, secretary; Jerry Fine, treasurer; Eric Rafter, Enrico Verga, John McCall, John Barry, and Elton Boone, board of governors.

Hall and McCall are Torrance attorneys. Other officers represent the cities of Inglewood, Hawthorne, Westchester, and Hermosa Beach.

Outgoing president is David Lynn of Inglewood.

## Woman Found Unconscious

Verna McCurry, 60, of 5299 Clearside ave., was found unconscious in her home following a diabetic attack last Friday afternoon, according to Torrance police.

Officers Hyman Fischer and Robert Wright were unable to revive the victim, who was sent to Harbor General Hospital.

Dr. H. E. Essex was called to attend the woman.



GEORGE PECKHAM, SR.

land officiating. Interment took place at Inglewood Park Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Florence Peckham, 1518 Post ave., a daughter, Mrs. Mary Clark, of the same address; two sons, George J. Peckham Jr., 2220 W. 231st st. and Robert S. Peckham, 1507 Acacia ave.; and five grandchildren, Mary Lee and Howard H. Cowan, Georgina Peckham, Robert S. Peckham Jr., and Candace Peckham.

## Torrance Man Dies at Wheel Of Moving Car

A car with a dead man at the wheel veered off Ocean st. in Keystone last Tuesday and bounced for almost 100 feet through a ploughed field before coming to a halt, county sheriff's deputies report.

The car went out of control when the driver, William S. Harvey, 49, of 22326 Moneta ave., Torrance, apparently suffered a fatal heart attack.

He was pronounced dead upon arrival at Harbor General Hospital.

The body was removed to Stone and Myers Mortuary, where funeral services were conducted on Friday, Rev. C. J. England officiated.

Survivors include his wife, Violet I. Sharley of Torrance, and three daughters, one son, a sister, and his mother.

## Success of Charity Fund Drive Told

At a time when "boiling pots" collections are down 20% from 1951, the people of Torrance showed their generosity by more than doubling last year's contributions during a one-day drive last Saturday, according to Charles Mullen, general chairman of the drive.

The pots were manned by members of the Kiwanis, Lion, Optimist and Rotary Clubs of Torrance. This annual inter-service club project is arranged with the cooperation of the Salvation Army. All monies collected are given to that organization to make Christmas a little merrier for the needy, Mullen said.

Persons who did not have an opportunity to contribute to the campaign on Saturday may still do so by contacting Mullen at 1519 Post Ave., or calling Torrance 3303, it was disclosed.

## First Baby of 1953 To Receive Free Gifts

The first baby born in our community in 1953 may not grow up to be the president, but he'll have a good start due to the generosity of Torrance merchants.

The first infant born after the clock strikes twelve and 1953 is here will receive more than \$150 worth of baby furniture, clothes and equipment free from local merchants.

All persons living within the circulation area of this newspaper are eligible to enter their infant in the race if the baby is born immediately after the first of the year.

Parents whose baby is born on January 1, need only to fill out the coupon printed on this page giving the exact time and place of the child's birth. The infant's sex, weight and name, plus the name and address of the parents must also be included.

This information may be sent or brought to the office of the Torrance Press, 1406 Cravens ave., before 5 p.m. Monday, January 5. In the event of twins, the baby arriving first will be declared the winner.

Merchants who are contributing generously to give the first infant born here a terrific start in

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## Who'll Be First In 1953?

The first baby born after the first of the year in our community will receive more than \$150 worth of baby clothes, furniture and equipment.

All persons living within the circulation area of this newspaper are eligible. Simply fill out this coupon if your baby is born on January 1. Bring it or mail it to the Torrance Press, 1406 Cravens ave., before 5 p.m. on January 5.

WRITE PLAINLY

Exact date and hour of birth .....

Hospital and doctor .....

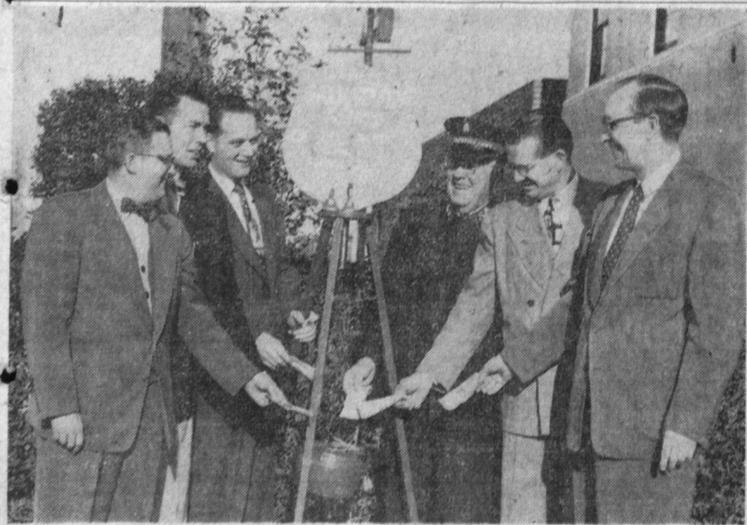
.....

Baby's name ..... Sex .....

Weight .....

Parent's name and address .....

.....



FUND DRIVE — Members of four Torrance service clubs do their bit to help the Salvation Army in their annual fund drive. Club members shook tambourines over pots in various sections of the business district last week as their contribution to the fund campaign. Above, left to right, are Charles Mullen, Rotary; J. A. DeJaifre, Lions; L. H. Peterson, Optimists; Salvation Army Lt. Col. A. D. Jackson; Rev. C. J. England, Rotary; and Darwin Parrish, Kiwanis.

# Who'll Be the First Baby in 1953?